PATENT
Attorney Docket No. 216189

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of:

Jacques DUMINY

Art Unit: Unassigned

Corresponding to International
Application No. PCT/GB00/04002

Examiner: Unassigned

Filed: Concurrently

For: SEALING STRIPS

AMENDMENTS TO CLAIMS
MADE VIA PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend claims 1-10 as follows:

1. (Amended) A strip [(6)] of flexible thermoplastic elastomer material [(22)] of open-cell foamed form having a first, thin closed-cell covering [(24)] thereover, characterised by a second thin covering [(26)] on the outside of the first covering [(24)], the second covering [(26)] presenting an outwardly facing surface having a lower coefficient of friction than the first covering [(24)].

2. (Amended) A strip [(6)] according to claim 1, in which the second covering [(26)] is made of plastic or rubber material.

3. (Amended) A strip [(6)] according to claim 1 [or 2], of hollow tubular form.

4. (Amended) A strip [(6)] according to [any preceding] claim 1, attached to a longitudinally extending mounting part [(10)] for mounting the strip [(6)] adjacent a movable member to be compressed thereby to provide a sealing function.

5. (Amended) A strip [(6)] according to claim 4, in which the mounting part [(10)] is also made of thermoplastic elastomer material [(16)] and the first covering [(24)] extends thereover.

6. (Amended) A strip [(6)] according to claim 5, in which the second covering [(26)] extends over the first covering [(24)] on the mounting part [(10)].

7. (Amended) A strip [(6)] according to [any preceding] claim 1, in which the thermoplastic elastomer material [(22)] and the two coverings [(24,26)] are produced by extrusion.

8. (Amended) A strip [(6)] according to claim 5 [or 6], in which the thermoplastic elastomer material [(22)] of the strip [(6)] and of the mounting part [(10)] is co-extruded and in which at least the first covering [(24)] on the strip [(6)] and on the mounting part [(10)] is co-extruded.

9. (Amended) A method of making a sealing strip [(6)], comprising the steps of extruding thermoplastic elastomer material [(22)] in foamed open-cell form, and

extruding a first thin covering [(24)] of closed-cell material onto at least a part of the outer surface of the open-cell material [(22)], characterised by the step of extruding a second, thin covering [(26)] onto at least part of the outside of the first covering [(24)], the second covering [(26)] presenting an outwardly facing surface having a lower coefficient of friction than the first covering [(24)].

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PENDING CLAIMS AFTER ENTRY OF PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

1. A strip of flexible thermoplastic elastomer material of open-cell foramed form having a first, thin closed-cell covering thereover, characterised by a second thin covering on the outside of the first covering, the second covering presenting an outwardly facing surface having a lower coefficient of friction than the first covering.

2. A strip according to claim 1, in which the second covering is made of plastic or rubber material.

3. A strip according to claim 1, of hollow tubular form.

4. A strip according to claim 1, attached to a longitudinally extending mounting part for mounting the strip adjacent a movable member to be compressed thereby to provide a sealing function.

5. A strip according to claim 4, in which the mounting part is also made of thermoplastic elastomer material and the first covering extends thereover.

6. A strip according to claim 5, in which the second covering extends over the first covering on the mounting part.

7. A strip according to claim 1, in which the thermoplastic elastomer material and the two coverings are produced by extrusion.

8. A strip according to claim 5, in which the thermoplastic elastomer material of the strip and of the mounting part is co-extruded and in which at least the first covering on the strip and on the mounting part is co-extruded.

9. A method of making a sealing strip, comprising the steps of extruding thermoplastic elastomer material in foamed open-cell form, and extruding a first thin covering of closed-cell material onto at least a part of the outer surface of the open-cell material, characterised by the step of extruding a second, thin covering onto at least part of the outside of the first covering, the second covering presenting an outwardly facing surface having a lower coefficient of friction than the first covering.